

RESOLUTION No. 463

**STRENGTHENING OF THE REGIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (FONTAGRO)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.507(07), “Strengthening of IICA Member States’ Support to FONTAGRO”,

CONSIDERING:

That technological research and technology are a critical and strategic factor for food security, the sustainable and competitive development of market-integrated agriculture and for the promotion of the wellbeing of rural communities and natural resource conservation;

That, except for a few countries in the Americas, the funding of agricultural research is far below (on average, 0.7% of agricultural GDP) investments by developing countries on other continents and developed countries (2 to 4% of agricultural GDP) and it is therefore imperative that this situation be reversed;

That the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO), which has the support of IICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is a mechanism of the participating countries for promoting joint regional agricultural research, where those countries establish their strategic priorities through the funding of regional projects, which they executive jointly and which have shown highly positive results;

That the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan provides for the “[S]trengthening of the hemispheric system for cooperation among countries in agricultural technological innovation” and, therefore, support for the strengthening of FONTAGRO is a priority; and

That at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting, it received the report on activities accomplished by FONTAGRO and the principal results of its activities,

RESOLVES:

1. To receive with satisfaction the report of FONTAGRO promoted jointly by the participating countries, with the support of IICA and the IDB.

2. To request that the Director General make that report available to all Member States of the Institute before the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to be held in Antigua, Guatemala.
3. To recognize the importance of strengthening FONTAGRO and to urge the Member States of IICA that are not yet part of that Fund to consider the possibility of joining that mechanism, in order to participate in a united effort for the development and adoption of technologies and share experiences.